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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure and past practice, the Statistical Commission should elect, at its first meeting, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the thirty-first session of the Commission to the beginning of the thirty-second session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were considered by the Commission at its thirtieth session (New York, 1-5 March 1999)[1] and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1999/223 of 26 July 1999. Additional items have been included in consultation with the officers of the Commission. A proposed schedule of discussion has been made available to the Commission. The Commission should adopt an agenda and schedule of discussion for the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2000/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2000/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2000/L.2)

3. Economic statistics

(a) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on National Accounts, which reviews the updating processes of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA) regarding the "treatment of financial derivatives" and "functional classifications". Moreover, through the creation of electronic discussion groups, the debate is extending to other areas, which might result in future amendments of the 1993 SNA text. The report also contains an integrated presentation of the work programme of the members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) in support of implementation of the 1993 SNA, highlighting in particular the implementation of the new data questionnaire. The Commission is requested (a) to comment on the handling of the 1993 SNA updating mechanism; (b) to endorse the creation of the electronic discussion groups; and (c) to comment on the work programme.

The Commission will also have before it a report on the milestone assessment for implementation of the 1993 SNA by member States, prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division in consultation with the regional commissions. It will not identify individual countries but rather present a general analysis based on a regional and subregional perspective. Some reflections on the experiences with the milestones since their inception in 1996 are included. The Commission is requested to initiate a debate on how the milestones are to be used in the future and what improvements, if any, are needed in terms of definition and measurement method.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2000/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the milestone assessment of the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993, by member States (E/CN.3/2000/3)

(b) International trade statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics, which will review the work accomplished by the Task Force in response to the decisions made by the Commission at its thirtieth session as well as other activities that the Task Force has undertaken. The Commission is requested to comment on the progress and plans of the Task Force in both the methodological and data aspects of its work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/4)

(c) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, summarizing the work of the Task Force on the proposed manual on statistics of international trade in services, as well as a draft of the manual as a background document. The draft manual takes into consideration the four modes of supply as defined in the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The draft manual was circulated worldwide for comment at the beginning of November 1999. The Commission is requested to respond to the strategy laid out in the report for approval of the manual in 2001.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2000/5)

(d) Finance statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics, including an update of developments since the thirtieth session of the Commission, particularly in the area of external debt. The Commission is requested to express its views on the initiatives taken by the Task Force.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/6)

(e) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report by the World Bank on work done and further practical steps needed to respond to the requests of the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session regarding the International Comparison Programme. The Commission is requested to review the work done and the further steps proposed.

Documentation

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2000/7)

(f) Special Data Dissemination Standard and General Data Dissemination System of the International Monetary Fund, including data quality

The Commission will have before it a report on recent developments in the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System, including their role in the transparency initiatives of the International Monetary Fund, and underlying work on data quality. The Commission is requested to express its views on these developments.

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund on the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System, including data quality (E/CN.3/2000/8)

(g) Other economic statistics (city groups on economic statistics and Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics)

The Commission will have before it a document presenting reports by the Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics, the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes, the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation, the Round Table on Business Survey Frames and the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. The report uses the standard short presentation format, including brief information on the purpose of the group, recent meetings and expected future products. The Commission is requested to review the objectives and work programmes of the groups.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics, the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes, the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation, the Round Table on Business Survey Frames and the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/9)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/10)

4. Tourism satellite account

The Commission will have before it a report by the World Tourism Organization describing the statistical design of a tourism satellite account (TSA), an update of the United Nations and World Tourism Organization Recommendations on Tourism Statistics,[2] and the Provisional list of tourism-specific products (selective adoption and adaptation of the Central Product Classification[3] to the needs of tourism). The report will also cover the main outcomes of the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact

of Tourism (Nice, 15-18 June 1999) relating to these outputs. The draft TSA, the update of the Recommendations on Tourism Statistics and the provisional list of tourism-specific products will be before the Commission for its review and possible adoption.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organisation on the tourism satellite account and related methodological outputs (E/CN.3/2000/11)

Draft tourism satellite account: methodological references (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/80)

Draft update of the United Nations and World Tourism Organization Recommendations on Tourism Statistics, including the draft provisional list of tourism-specific products (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/83/Rev.1)

5. Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, summarizing progress on the revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA)[4] and presenting the planned future work programme. The Commission is requested to review the proposed revision process for SEEA and the schedule of activities outlined in the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/2000/12)

6. Demographic, social and migration statistics

(a) Gender issues in measurement of paid and unpaid work

The Commission will have before it the implementation plan of a new United Nations Statistics Division project developed with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Research Centre/Canada aimed at improving methods and classifications to address gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. The Commission is requested to comment on the plan of implementation of the project with respect to its outputs and proposed activities. The Commission is also requested to bring related ongoing work and activities to the attention of those responsible for the project.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation plan of a project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work (E/CN.3/2000/13)

(b) Social statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics, briefing the Commission on recent meetings and the proposed future programme. The Commission is requested to review the objectives and work programme of the Siena Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/14)

7. Coordination of development indicators in the context of follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including capacity-building

The Commission will have before it a report on recent developments in the area of indicators, such as the special session of the Economic and Social Council on basic indicators and the subsequent Council resolution. The document will also describe what actions the United Nations Statistics Division is proposing to take in order to follow up on the Council resolution. Those actions particularly aim at improving coordination among international agencies and strengthening statistical capacity-building. The Commission is requested to approve the proposed work programme.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics on recent developments in the area of poverty statistics. It presents summary conclusions from a recent meeting of the Group. The Commission is requested to review the objectives and work programme of the Group.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators in the United Nations system (E/CN.3/2000/15)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (E/CN.3/2000/16)

8. International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications on the status of the work programme as endorsed by the Commission at its thirtieth session[5] and defined in the reports on statistical classifications (E/CN.3/1999/16, E/CN.3/1999/17 and the background document on the proposed work programme of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics). Annex I of the report contains the recommendations and conclusions of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications in its capacity as the central coordinating body for implementing the proposed work programme on classifications. This includes recommendations to improve the supporting materials for the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC, Rev.3)[6] and for conducting the implementation, assessment and future revisions of ISIC and the Central Product Classification (CPC). The Expert Group will also report its decision on whether the CPC subgroup will be a subgroup of the Expert Group.

The Commission is requested to respond to the strategy and time-frame laid out in the report for the completion of the proposed work programme. The Commission is requested to address the following questions:

(a) Does the Commission agree with the recommended actions to be taken by the members of the Expert Group for making the international family of economic and social classifications operational?

(b) Have the key players in the development of international and multinational classifications been satisfactorily included into the Expert Group, and has representation of developing countries been ensured?

(c) Are the activities proposed for implementation, assessment and future revisions of ISIC and CPC appropriate for the needs and concerns of countries, and is the work programme satisfactorily orchestrated?

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications(E/CN.3/2000/17)

9. Revised Handbook of Statistical Organization[7]

The Commission will be informed of the progress towards the completion of the revised *Handbook of Statistical Organization* that the Commission requested be written. The Commission will also be informed of proposals to review the draft revised *Handbook* by representatives of national statistical offices.[8]

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on revision of the Handbook of Statistical Organization (E/CN.3/2000/18)

10. Review of other major developments in the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division

The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division will make an oral report on any significant developments that may have occurred since the preparation of the various substantive reports for the thirty-first session of the Commission; he will also report on any important developments in areas not covered in the agenda of the current session.

Documentation

Oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division

11. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes

The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities held its thirty-third session at Madrid, from 12 to 14 September 1999. The Commission should take into account, in its discussion under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at that session, the report of which is before the Commission.

The Commission will have before it a report on progress in the development of the global integrated presentation of the work of the international organizations in statistical methodology and the preparation of an annotated list of previously adopted statistical standards. The report will cover progress on development of the Web site to support global presentation; the agreement of organizations to provide necessary information; the definition of coverage; the updating schedule; and agreement with the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on rationalizing information requirements for current methodological work between the integrated presentation of CES and the global presentation being prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division. The Commission will receive an oral update report at the time of the Commission session and a sample use of the presentation. The Commission is requested to comment on progress achieved.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-third session (E/CN.3/2000/19)

Report of the Secretary-General on the global integrated presentation of the work of the international organizations in statistical methodology (E/CN.3/2000/20)

12. Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council's high-level and coordination segments, and to its resolutions

The Commission will be informed of the agreed conclusions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council adopted at its substantive session of 1999 that are relevant to the work of the Commission and any action proposed by the Secretariat. The Commission should decide upon any action that may be necessary.

Documentation

Oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division

13. Programme questions and related matters

The Commission will have before it, for review and comment, a conference room paper containing the draft medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division for the period 2002-2005.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN.3/2000/CRP.1)

14. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-second session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-second session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the thirty-second session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2000/L.3)

15. Report of the Commission on its thirty-first session

The Commission will adopt the report on its thirty-first session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), chap. I.B).

[2] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 83 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.6).

[3] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 77, Version 1.0 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 98.XVII.5).

[4] Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 61 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 93.XVII.12).

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), para. 108 (a).

[6] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11).

[7] Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 28 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.17).

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), para. 130 (h).